

A  
DECLARATION  
OF THE  
PARLIAMENT  
Assembled at  
WESTMINSTER.

---

*January 23. 1659.*

Ordered by the Parliament, That this DECLARATION be forthwith Printed and Published.

*Thomas St. Nicholas,*  
Clerk of the Parliament.

---

EDINBURGH,

Re-printed by *Christopher Higgins*, in *Hart's Close*, over  
against the Trone Church, 1660.

A  
DECLARATION  
OF THE  
PARLIAMENT

Assembled at  
WESTMINSTER.

January 23. 1689.

Ordered by the Parliament, That this De-  
CLARATION be forthwith Printed  
and Published.

Thomas St. Nicholas  
Clerk of the Parliament.

EDINBURGH.

Re-printed by Christopher Higgins, in Great Close, over  
against the Trone Church, 1689.

**DECLARATION**

**OF THE**

**PARLIAMENT**

Assembled at

**WESTMINSTER**

**T**He People of England having  
 been necessitated to take up  
 Arms in the just defence of  
 their Lawes and Liberties  
 against the late King: And it having  
 pleased GOD, after a long War, and  
 many Battels fought in the Field, so to



blesse their Armies, and to bring the  
 VVar to such an issue, that if they were  
 not wanting to themselves, they might  
 reap the fruit of all the Bloud and Trea-  
 sure exhausted in that Quarrel, and not  
 only be restored to their Freedom for the  
 present, but secured against all the like  
 attempts for the future. The Parliament  
 hereupon, as the *Trustees* of the People,  
 for the accomplishing of those ends, did  
 declare and enact, That the People of  
*England*, and of all the Dominions and  
 Territories thereunto belonging, should  
 be thenceforth governed as a Common-  
 wealth and Free State, by the Represen-  
 tatives of the People in Parliament, and  
 that without any King, or House of  
 Lords; Judging this not only to be the  
 undoubted Right of the People, but that  
 the Office of a King in those Nations, or  
 to



to have the Power thereof in any Single  
 Person, as also the House of Lords, was  
 burdenson and dangerous to the Safety  
 and Liberty of the People: And by this  
 meanes the Foundations of a Publique  
 Interest being layed in the place of that  
 which was only private and personal, this  
 People might grow up (through the  
 good gifts of God) into perfect Freedom,  
 being Governed in the Supreme Power  
 by their own Representatives; and in the  
 Executive Power, by their known Laws  
 and Judicatory; the best Measure and  
 Standard of Liberty: their Navigation  
 and Trade encouraged and promoted,  
 which in all Monarchies is stinted and  
 restrained. The true Protestant Religi-  
 on both at home and abroad owned and  
 countenanced; which under the former  
 Constitution was clogged with vain and  
 foolish superstitious

superstitious Ceremonies, and corrupt opinions touching Faith and Worship, imposed upon all, without any regard had to tender Consciences, and the Ministers of the Gospel, and the Professors thereof, with Godliness it self, discountenanced and persecuted.

To this state of things did the Parliament judge it their Duty to bring this Nation, and the Free People thereof, and no man can reasonably doubt, but that long before this time, the Parliament (through the same good and gracious presence that had accompanied their undertakings) would have accomplished their Intentions in these things, and settled the Commonwealth upon the Basis and Foundation aforesaid, if they had not been so often Interrupted, and thereby prevented hitherto from doing that, which

which alwayes was and is the utmost desire and intention of their hearts.

And yet the Parliament cannot but take notice of the Artifices that are used to mis-represent their Intentions, and to blemish their Proceedings before the People, unjustly charging them with a Design to perpetuate themselves now Sitting, to subject the People to Arbitrary Power, and to govern them by Force. And as to matters of Religion on one hand, That they are enemies to the Ministry, their Maintenance by Tythes, to the Universities and Learning, and encouragers of Fanatick Principles; On the other hand, That the Parliament is too severe, and of Imposing Principles in matters of Religion; not being ignorant, that those who by these means do industriously labour to  
dis-



dis-affect the People to the Parliament;  
are such, who by specious pretences  
would first put out their eyes; that they  
might not see the way to their own true  
Liberty, and then bring them back again  
into their old Servitude.

The Parliament therefore, to omit  
nothing in their power that may unde-  
ceive honest and well meaning men,  
have thought it necessary in this con-  
juncture of Time and Affairs, to De-  
clare and Manifest (as they do here-  
by) what their Intentions are, as to  
the Government of these Nations, with  
some other particulars relating there-  
unto; wherein they are Resolved  
(through the Goodness and Assistance  
of God) to remain constant and im-  
moveable.

1. That

1. That the Parliament will provide forthwith to perfect those beginnings which are already made for setting the Government of these Nations and the People thereof in the way of a Commonwealth and Free State, without a King, Single Person, or House of Lords, in such manner, that they may be Governed from time to time by Representatives in Parliament chosen by themselves, in whom alone the Supreme Authority of these Nations doth and ought to reside, and by such as they shall appoint and constitute as Officers and Ministers under them for the good of the People. And that the Parliament will make it their Care to form the Army and Forces of these Nations in such manner, that whilest it shall be found necessary for them, or any of them, to be

B

kept

kept up for the Safety of the Commonwealth, they may be wholly subject and obedient to the Civil Authority.

2. There being nothing more essential to the Freedom of a State, than that the People should be governed by the Laws, and that Justice be administered by such only as are accountable for Male-administration; It is hereby further declared, That all proceedings touching the Lives, Liberties, and Estates of all the Free People of this Commonwealth, shall be according to the Laws of the Land. And that the Parliament will not meddle with the ordinary Administration, or the Executive part of the Law: It being the principal care of this, as it hath been of all former Parliaments, to provide  
for



for the Freedom of the People against Arbitrariness in Government.

3. And that they will make effectual provision for the Countenancing of a Learned and Pious Gospel-Ministry through all the three Nations, and for the encouraging and protecting them in the work of their Ministry against Disturbances. And as to their Maintenance, that by Tithes shall be continued, it being already established by Law, and is in it self the most certain, convenient and comfortable way of Maintenance, that in the Judgment of the Parliament can be settled. And therefore they do expect and require, That the Judges, Justices of the Peace, and others whom it concerns, do take care, that the Laws touching the same be put in effectual execution. And for a further

*increase of Maintenance than hath been  
 anciently settled upon Preaching Mini-  
 sters, The Parliament doth declare,  
 That the Augmentations by the Im-  
 propriations of the late King, Bishops,  
 Deans and Chapters, and Delin-  
 quents not compounded for, as likewise  
 by Tithes and First-Fruits, shall be  
 continued and settled upon the preaching  
 Ministry, not to be aliened or altered  
 from that use; and distributed in such  
 manner as they may be applied to such  
 places as stand in most need, that every  
 place in the Land may have a preaching  
 Minister, who may be able to teach  
 the People the good Knowledge of the  
 LORD, and may have a comfor-  
 table Livelyhood and Encouragement  
 among them: As also that provision  
 shall be made for due Liberty of Consci-  
 ence*

ence in matters of Religion, according  
to the Word of GOD.

4. The Parliament do Declare,  
That they will uphold the publique Uni-  
versities, and Schools of this Land, and  
not only continue to them the Privi-  
ledges and Advantages they now en-  
joy, but shall be ready to give them  
such further Countenance as may En-  
courage them in their Studies, and pro-  
mote Godliness, Learning, and good  
Manners amongst them.

5. The Parliament being very sen-  
sible of the great decay of the Trade of  
these Nations, will apply themselves  
to such Councils and Meanes, as shall  
be found most proper both for the spee-  
dy restoring and increasing thereof;  
Judging, That there is no one thing  
in the Affairs of State more impor-  
tant



tant to the VVelfare, Strength, and  
 Glory of a Commonwealth, & especi-  
 ally of this being an Island, then the  
 Encouragement of Trade and Na-  
 vigation.

6. As to the present Burthens which  
 are upon the Nation; The Parliament  
 is very sensible thereof, and of those  
 Extravagant Councils and Actions  
 which have engaged the Nation in so  
 great a Debt and Charge, the guilt  
 whereof will not rest upon them, though  
 the danger and burden thereof doth. And  
 it is one of the greatest Cares they have  
 upon them, how to give the People that  
 Ease which their Condition calleth for,  
 and also provide for their Safety, and  
 answer the pressing Necessities of the  
 State, Which the Parliament hopes  
 in some measure to do in a very short  
 time,

time, in case the unreasonable Dissatisfactions and turbulent Actings of Unquiet Men do not Continue the Charge longer than otherwise will be necessary.

---

Monday, Jan. 23. 1659.

**O**Rdered by the Parliament, That this Declaration be forthwith Printed and Published.

THOMAS St. NICHOLAS,  
Clerk of the Parliament.

---

EDINBURGH,  
Re-printed by Christopher Higgins, in  
Harts Close, over against the  
Trone-Church, 1660.

time in case the unreasonable  
petitioners and turbulent things of  
Charles had not continue the  
change longer than otherwise will be  
necessary.

Monday, Jan. 22. 1682.  
Ordered by the Parliament, That  
this Declaration be forthwith  
Printed and Published.

THOMAS ST. NICHOLAS,  
Clerk of the Parliament.

EDINBURGH,  
Re-printed by Christopher Higgins, in  
Hart's Close, over against the  
Tone-Church, 1680.